

THE ALMA RECORD

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF ALMA, MICHIGAN

AND IT CAME TO PASS

And it came to pass that a most beautiful location was selected, one day, by some travelers who were looking for a place where they might found a city. Many natural advantages were there, all of which helped to make this location a desirable one: a good harbor, natural water power, beautiful scenery, high land upon which stately homes might be erected, a good climate, an abundance of pure water and the possibility of fine railroad facilities. And so this site was chosen from among many, and a city sprang up.

Many men were soon attracted to this locality, lured there, some by the factories that were presently erected, some by the educational advantages which were soon offered, some by the pure air and splendid water supply, some by the nearby beautiful scenery, others by the business opportunities which they helped to create there.

And the years slipped by. For some time the city prospered and grew and its fame went out through all the land. But after several decades, no further progress was noted, and a decline seemed to be setting in. This soon became plainly evidenced by the fact that, one by one, its best, most progressive citizens began to straggle away to build new homes for themselves in other cities.

And the residue who remained became discouraged and ceased to work for the further building up of their city after those who had been the leaders in that community had gone away.

One of the original settlers of this place, however, still continued to reside in his old home. To be sure, he was white-haired and feeble, but his mind still retained its clearness and vigor. He had been one of the charter members of the city, one of its earliest inhabitants. He had watched its growth and had done his full share in helping with its various necessary public activities. He had seen his loved city reach its peak of greatness, and he still lived there, marking day by day its gradual decline, too feeble now to put forth any effort to stop the retrogression which was slowly but surely going on. But he felt it none the less keenly, and spent many hours speculating upon the cause and sorrowing over the result, as is often the habit of old men.

As he sat upon the porch of his house in the late afternoon, sunshine, one day, he looked up to see a stranger entering his gateway. The man was tall and stalwart and walked with an air of assurance. Much impressed by his appearance, the old man invited him to take a seat upon the porch. The invitation was quickly accepted and the two men began a general conversation. They had not been talking long, however, when the stranger said to the old man, "You have lived here many years, they tell me. I have come to ask you an important question and I want a fair answer. Why is your city, with its many natural advantages, its beautiful homes and its business opportunities, slowly declining? I ask because I am interested in knowing why, and because I think that you can tell me the real cause."

The old man looked at the stranger and was impelled, by his clear, straightforward look to speak the exact truth as he saw it. And so, after a moment's hesitation, he replied, "Yes, I have been a citizen of this city since it was first founded. I love it as I love my own home, because it is my own home and I am far too old ever to make another. And to say anything in criticism of its citizens, my neighbors and my friends of many years, hurts me sorely. But when you say that our city is slowly decaying, you speak the truth, much as I dislike to admit it. I have lived here many years, and I know much concerning the inside history of this place. I therefore know of what I speak. I have thought the whole matter over many times, and I am more and more convinced that the main factors which have contributed most to the gradual decay of which you speak, are the spirit of selfishness which prevails here, and the lack of co-operation among the business men for all these many years. For most of the leading merchants of this place have been working always, singly, for their own temporary advantage as they saw it in their own narrow way of looking at things. Each one has been jealous of any prosperity that might come to any of the others, and the town has suffered in consequence of their blindness. For they have failed to see the great truth that that which benefits the whole must benefit every part. A few did see, but, unable to convince the others, they were forced to seek their business opportunity in other fields. And they have prospered in other localities as they could never have prospered here. I grieve to say it, but in my judgment, it is this selfish and jealous spirit that is wrecking my city and I feel sure that this same spirit will gradually undermine and wreck any city that is dominated by it.

"But," continued the old man, "you have not yet told me your name, nor have you explained why you have come to me with this question."

"My name," said the stranger, in his straightforward way, "is Big Business Opportunity. I came to your city to size it up, attracted by its natural advantages. I thought to locate here definitely, but what you have told me has changed my mind. I shall take the next train out. With these words he suddenly vanished.

The old man slowly raised his white head and rubbed his fast-dimming eyes, and said to himself, "I must have been dreaming. The sun has gone down and I am getting chilly. I must be getting into the house. But," he added, wistfully, "I wish that the stranger might have decided to stay."

The city of this tale is not our city. That fact is plainly shown by the Merchants Bureau's Co-operative Sale of last week. But it might easily be the tale of any city whose citizens work selfishly, thinking only of their own temporary advantage without co-operating for the good of all, until it comes to pass that the city declines and its merchants fail utterly for lack of that intelligent co-operation which would surely have brought success.

When the whole day goes wrong and you get completely discouraged, it is a good thing to remember that another day is coming and that perhaps everything will go right tomorrow.

Five Minute Chats on Our Presidents

By JAMES MORGAN

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FRANKLIN PIERCE

1804—November 23, Franklin Pierce born at Hillsboro, N. H.
1829-33—Member of New Hampshire legislature.
1833-37—Member of congress.
1837-42—United States senator.
1847-48—Brigadier general in the Mexican war.
1852—June, nominated by the Democrats.
1853—March 4, inaugurated fourteenth president, aged sixty-four.
1854—The Missouri compromise repealed.
1856—Pierce defeated for re-nomination.
1869—October 8, died, aged sixty-four.

FRANKLIN PIERCE was the second dark horse and the third New Englander to enter the White House. He was chosen not as a representative of New England, but rather as an agent of the south, and New Hampshire debated half a century before it grudgingly set up in the yard of the capital at Concord a statue of her only president.

A member of the legislature at twenty-nine, while his father was governor, and twice a member of congress, he was a senator of the United States at thirty-three. Resigning when his term had yet a year to run, he afterward refused a second election to the senate and refused the governorship. The Mexican war tempted Pierce from his retirement and, as a brigadier general, he served with Scott in the advance on the city of Mexico. Returning to his family and a first-class law practice at Concord, General Pierce, at forty-three, had no thought that any further public distinction awaited him.

Pierce was elected in a more sweep-



Franklin Pierce.

ing victory than any other president had had since Monroe. He had the mandate and the opportunity to be president of the whole Union. With all his good qualities of head and heart, he was not broad enough to be more than the servant of a section, "of those who placed me here," as he expressed it.

The new president's appointment of Jefferson Davis to be secretary of war identified his administration at the outset with the aggressive faction in the south. Under its counsels Pierce not only surrendered to the ambitions of the slave power for expansion over the north and west, but also for its expansion into foreign lands.

Slavery was in its last throes everywhere. Great Britain had abolished it in her West Indian islands, Mexico had abolished it next door to our own slave states. Even Spain was leaning toward the freeing of the slaves in Cuba when the American ministers to Great Britain, France and Spain met in Belgium and issued the "Ostend manifesto." That shameful document proclaimed the threat that if the Spanish government should refuse to sell us Cuba we would take the island by force.

At the same time congress at home was repealing the Missouri compromise and wiping out the dead line against slavery, which had been drawn a quarter of a century before. This threw open Kansas to a wild scramble between settlers who wished the new territory to be free and those who wished it to be slave.

Then there the Civil war began. "Border ruffians," as the north called the settlers, who rushed in from Missouri and other slave states, and settlers no less rough in their fighting who poured in from the free states, quickly turned that primeval into "bleeding Kansas." Rival territorial governments were set up by the two factions, and Pierce threw the weight of the federal power on the side of those who were desperately striving to create another slave state.

The whole country was drawn into the struggle, and the Republican party sprang into life. At the election in the middle of his term, Pierce saw the Democratic representation in the house cut down one-half and the opposition sweep in with a big majority.

"A teacher wrote a list of spelling words on the board, asking the pupils to put them into sentences to illustrate their meaning. One word was 'goblet,' and a boy wrote this sentence: 'If I had a piece of cake, I would goblet.'"

WHY Indirect Lighting Is Best for the Eyes

Not long ago we substituted the electric and gas light for the old-fashioned coal oil lamp. We think we have wonderful lighting systems. According to Forrest Knapp of Colorado Agricultural college, the glare due to the use of the incandescent lamp is so great that it may counteract all of the good effects of increased intensity of illumination. Did you ever notice any discomfort from having an electric light in your field of vision? Do your eyes become tired more easily at night than in the day time?

There are two main ways in which modern lighting is done, directly and indirectly. With indirect lighting the source of illumination cannot be seen but the light is reflected from the walls and ceiling, but when direct lighting is used the source may be seen. The latter is the more common. If our eyes hurt we get a larger globe and move it closer to our work. Theoretically this should be done. But how about experience?

It has been proved that after three hours' work the efficiency of the eye is but little less when indirect lighting is used. The efficiency of the eye after three hours' work in daylight is about 98 per cent. When an indirect light is used the efficiency is about 97 per cent. Not much difference. But when direct lighting is used this efficiency drops to about 15 per cent.

The intensity of illumination has little effect when indirect lighting is used, but a very great effect when the source of light is in the field of vision. The number of indirect lights does not decrease the efficiency to any noticeable degree but when direct lighting is used the efficiency drops rapidly with an increase in the number of lighting units.

Save your eyes.

ALWAYS MATTER OF POLITICS

Why Presidency of the United States Has Been Described as a Web of Fate.

The presidency has been described as a web of fate, because men in office have either assisted friends of theirs into the White House, or been compelled to bow low before the political drives of bitter enemies.

But before George Washington was named president despite his many enemies—between the call to arms in 1775 and the establishment of the Constitution—four men were virtually the presidents of the United States, says William Estlinbrook Chancellor in his work on "Our Presidents and Their Office." They were not individually presidents, but in combination they operated somewhat as a president operates. These four men were Samuel Adams, Patrick Henry, John Hancock and Benjamin Franklin. By far the ablest of these was Franklin. He had printing establishments in ten cities, including the West Indies. He financed Braddock's expedition, and made Washington a hero.

Had there been no war—hero there would have been no revolution, and consequently no president. Franklin hated war; Patrick Henry wanted it; Adams was the master politician, and though Hancock wanted to be commander-in-chief, he maneuvered cleverly, and with the aid of John Adams put Washington through.

Why Coke Is Good Fuel.

Coke does not give quite as much heat per ton as high grade anthracite coal; but in many instances the average grade of coke is available at a lower cost per ton than high grade anthracite, and as a special inducement some dealers give a few hundred pounds extra per ton of coke. In this case the purchaser of a ton of coke will realize about the same efficiency in total heat units as if he had purchased a ton of anthracite, says the Scientific American.

Coke weighs about 28 pounds per cubic foot for standard size, while anthracite coal weighs 50 pounds per cubic foot. It will, therefore, be seen that a ton of coke will require almost twice the volume or cubic feet of storage space that a ton of anthracite coal requires.

Why Winter Fruits Are Good.

Dried figs contain more than three times the nutrient of fresh eggs. Figs are justly entitled to a place among the food fruits. In the dry state or stewed they are an excellent food for children in cold weather. About five ounces of figs and a pint of milk make a sustaining meal for an adult. Weight for weight, dates are more nourishing than bread. In desert tracts, this fruit is almost the only source of nourishment for men and women, camels, horses and other animals.

How to Kill Mosquitoes.

M. Roubaud of the Pasteur Institute in Paris has now discovered a method of destroying the larvae of mosquitoes by sprinkling powdered formaline on the surface of the water. This does not injure fish or make water impossible to drink, and it is also said to be much more rapid and effective than oil.

How Asbestos Withstands Acids.

Asbestos is the queerest mineral in the world and is rapidly becoming one of the most important. It is impervious to the fiercest heat and can also withstand acids which would eat up almost any metal. Today its principal value is for packing marine engines and there is nothing else to compare with it for this purpose.

A Record Mower.

A small boy, born in a Turkish harem, is said to have 48 stepmothers living. Our office boy, however, is still undefeated in the matter of recently defunct grandmothers. —London Punch.

With Our State Contemporaries

THE RAILROAD STRIKE

The chiefs of the five big railroad labor unions met in Cleveland Tuesday to perfect plans for carrying out a nation-wide tie-up of the railroads of the country October 30. These high paid union members propose to cripple the transportation of the country, add to the unemployment and suffering unless they can continue to receive pay which will keep freight and passenger fares so high that business cannot get back to good conditions. Of course the time had to come when there would be a showdown as to whether the United States government or these big railroad unions would rule. It ought to be settled so thoroughly this time that there would be no more trouble of this sort during the next generation.—Clinton Co. Republican.

THE UPS AND DOWNS OF LIFE.

A singular instance of the ups and downs of life, has been given in the newspapers in the story of Thomas Proctor, formerly member of prominent law firms in New York, and the owner of the bed in which Abraham Lincoln died. Now Mr. Proctor is a mentally broken man, reduced by misfortune to the pathetic life of a pauper on Blackwell's Island, illustrating the transitory character of a great deal of earthly success.

It is amazing how quickly a man drops out of sight in a great city when misfortune begins to go against him. The world looks at failure as unattractive, even if a man's failure is not from his own fault.

The man who has had a rather high position, and then fails to maintain it, is really worse off than the humble individual. The latter forms his own ties among his own type of people and is happy and content. The man who has climbed to a large degree of success and then had hard luck, is not at home anywhere. It is hard for him to adjust himself to simple people and the successful lose interest in him.

This tendency to neglect the unsuccessful is much more pronounced in large cities. In smaller towns life is simpler and man's worth is not so much measured by standards of money and display. Many a man under such circumstances has met his losses by fortitude and philosophy which made him new friends. These valued him for what he was and more than replaced the fair weather associates of days of prosperity.

The world's summary verdict upon ill success is a superficial way of looking upon life. Many men have yet gained in intelligence and wisdom and sympathy as they have seen their riches fly. Many people who have slipped on the steep ascent of life, yet have noble qualities of mind and heart.—St. Johns News.

We can do it if it is in the printing line. The Alma Record.—advertisement 10-3w

Record Directory FOR READY REFERENCE

Preserve This and Then You'll Know

President and Congress
President, Warren G. Harding, Ohio, salary \$75,000, with allowance for traveling expenses up to \$25,000 extra, and \$150,000 more for clerk hire and White House expenses—\$250,000 in all. (Subject to change)
Vice-President, Calvin Coolidge, Mass., salary \$125,000. President's son, son of senator, Albert B. Cummins, Iowa.
Speaker of House, Frederick H. Gillett of Mass.; salary \$12,000. The 56 Senators and 435 Representatives of 67th congress receive \$7,500 salary each, with mileage extra at 20 cents a mile each way, each session, figured on distance between their homes and Washington; also \$125 extra for stationery, newspapers, etc. Each is also allowed \$2,500 a year for clerk hire. Ratio of representation, one member to each 211,817 population.

Party Division in 67th Congress: House 591 Rep., 123 Dem., 468 Rep. Senate 59 Rep., 37 Dem.
U. S. Senators—Chas. E. Townsend, Truman H. Newberry.
Representative in Congress—Joseph W. Fordney.

The Cabinet
Arranged in order of presidential succession:
Sec'y State, Charles E. Hughes, N. Y.; Treasury, Andrew W. Mellon, Pa.; War, John W. Weeks, Mass.; Atty-Gen., Harry M. Daugherty, Ohio; Postmaster-Gen., Will H. Hays, Ind.; Sec'y Navy, Edwin Denby, Mich.; Interior, Albert B. Fall, N. Mex.; Agriculture, Henry C. Wallace, Iowa; Commerce, Herbert Hoover, Calif.; Labor, James C. Davis, Pa. Salary of each \$12,000.

The Supreme Court
Chief Justice, William Howard Taft, salary \$15,000. Associate Justices, salary, \$14,500 each: Jos. McKenna, Calif., (Rep.); Oliver W. Holmes, Mass., (Rep.); Wm. B. Brandeis, Ohio, (Rep.); Louis Brandeis, Ohio, (Rep.); Charles E. Hughes, N. Y., (Rep.); James McReynolds, Tenn., (Dem.); Louis D. Brandeis, Mass., (Dem.); John H. Clarke, Ohio, (Dem.).

Michigan Government
Governor, Alex. J. Groesbeck, salary, \$5,000; Lieut. Gov., Thomas Reel, salary, \$3,000; Secretary of State, Charles J. Deland, salary, \$2,500.00; State Treas., Frank E. Gamman, salary, \$2,500.00; Auditor Gen., Oran E. Fuller, salary, \$2,500.00; Attorney Gen., Martin Wiley, salary \$2,500.00; Supt. of Public Instruction, Thomas E. Johnson, salary, \$4,000.00; State Highway Com., Frank F. Rogers, salary \$2,500.00; Senator of District, Aaron Amos, salary \$3,000.00; Representative of District, Chas. E. Locke, salary, \$2,000.00; Supreme Court Justices, salary \$7,000.00; Joseph B. Moore, Joseph H. Moore, Howard W. Grant, Fellows, John W. Stone, Geo. M. Clark, John E. Bird, Nelson Sharp.

County Officers
Circuit Judge, Edward J. Moinet, salary \$25,000.00; Judge of Probate, James G. Kress, salary, \$24,000.00; Sheriff, A. T. Willett, salary, \$10,000.00; Clerk, Bernice Case, salary, \$1,500.00; Treas., Sidney Evey, salary, \$1,500.00; Atty., Rosamond Clark, salary, \$2,200.00; Register of Deeds, Chas. Heller, salary, \$1,500.00; School Com., Howard Potter, salary, \$1,600.00; Circuit Court Com., Archie McCall, Wm. A. Buhke, fees, \$1,000.00; Erva Laycock, salary \$1,500.00; Coroners, W. K. Ludwig, Dr. Hall, fees.

City Government
Mayor, Chas. E. Murphy, salary, \$200.00; City Commissioners, John C. Chick, Floyd Glass, A. J. Archer, Philip Cresser, salary, \$200.00; City Manager, Wm. E. Reynolds, salary \$2,000.00; City Clerk, Francis C. Hayward, salary \$2,000.00; City Treasurer, D. W. Adams, salary, \$1,800.00; City Attorney, Wm. A. Buhke, salary, \$1,500.00; Health Officer, Dr. John N. Day, salary, \$1,500.00; Chief of Police, James R. Campbell, salary \$1,175.00; Supervisors, 1st ward, Jesse E. Fuller, 2nd ward, Nicholas E. Sand, 3rd ward, Albert P. Cook, 4th ward, Jacob D. Helman, salary, \$5.00 per day on actual time.

Ellison's Grocery

New English Currants per lb. 25c
New Seeded or Seedless Raisins, pkg. 22c
New Santa Clara Prunes per lb. 15c - 20c
Larabee or Lily White Flour, 24 1/2 lbs. \$1.15
Premium Soda Crackers per lb. 16c
Lewis Lye per can 15c
Karo Syrup, 10 lb. cans, Blue 60c
Brednut Oleo, per lb. 24c
5 lb. sack Pen Yan Buckwheat Flour 33c
5 lb. sacks Golden Corn Meal 18c
Export Borax Soap, large bars 5c
Oval Pearl Soap, floating toilet soap 5c
Granulated Sugar \$6.25 cwt., per lb. 6 1/2c

Save Coupons For Premium Aluminum Ware

Ellison's Grocery



is a food which should be eaten every day in the year. Our Special Bricks this winter will reflect the skill and ingenuity of a thoroughly experienced organization—competent to satisfy the most discriminating.

WEEK END SPECIAL

DE LUXE
Three Layers

Toasted Filbert Nut Mousse

Lemon Sherbet
Center Layer

Manhattan Pudding
ORDER BY NAME

Flint, Saginaw, Bay City and Alma

Strand Theater

Thursday and Friday

WM. S. HART

—in—

"THE CRADLE OF COURAGE"

Fox News — Pathe Review

Saturday

WALLACE REID

—in—

"ALWAYS AUDACIOUS"

Christie Comedy

Sunday and Monday

CECH B. DeMILLE Presents

Wallace Reid, Gloria Swanson, Bebe Daniels, Wanda Hawley, Elliott Dexter, and five other big stars, in

"THE AFFAIRS of ANATOL"

Chester Comedy

Tuesday and Wednesday

A Special Gertrude Atherton Production

"DON'T NEGLECT YOUR WIFE"

Kilograms Burton Holmes Travelogue

Thursday and Friday

VIOLA DANA

—in—

"LIFE'S DARN FUNNY"

Fox News Pathe Review

VAUDEVILLE Wednesday and Thursday Nights

Matinees Saturdays and Sundays only